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CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A gastrointestinal device comprising:
  - a casing comprising fixation elements adapted for intraluminal fixation of the device in a gastrointestinal tract;
  - a valve disposed in said casing and controllable to move from a closed position, which significantly restricts passage of gastrointestinal matter therepast, and an open position, which permits passage of gastrointestinal matter therepast; and
  - a controller operatively connected to said valve for externally controlling the position of said valve between the closed and open positions.
2. The gastrointestinal device according to claim 1, wherein said valve comprises a ball valve rotatable between the closed and open positions.
3. The gastrointestinal device according to claim 2, wherein said controller comprises at least one string attached to said ball valve, said at least one string, when pulled, causing said ball valve to rotate.
4. The gastrointestinal device according to claim 1, wherein said valve comprises a flexible sleeve which is deformable to be in the closed and open positions.
5. The gastrointestinal device according to claim 4, wherein said controller comprises shutters attached to said flexible sleeve, said shutters being selectively movable to cause said flexible sleeve to be in either of the closed and open positions.
6. The gastrointestinal device according to claim 5, wherein said shutters are actuated by fluid pressure, and said casing comprises a fluid port for connection to a fluid source to actuate said shutters.
7. The gastrointestinal device according to claim 4, wherein said controller comprises an inflatable member positioned about said flexible sleeve, wherein inflation of said inflatable member closes said flexible sleeve, and deflation of said inflatable member opens said flexible sleeve.
8. The gastrointestinal device according to claim 4, wherein said controller comprises a fluid inlet adapted to apply fluid pressure to said flexible sleeve, wherein application of a first fluid pressure closes said flexible sleeve, and application of a second fluid pressure opens said flexible sleeve.
9. The gastrointestinal device according to claim 1, wherein said fixation elements comprise rotatable hooks.

10. The gastrointestinal device according to claim 1, wherein said fixation elements comprise barbs.
11. The gastrointestinal device according to claim 1, further comprising an insertion assist device adapted to move said fixation elements to a fixed position in the gastrointestinal tract.
12. The gastrointestinal device according to claim 11, wherein said fixation elements comprise rotatable hooks, and wherein said insertion assist device comprises a trigger that actuates grabbers to rotate said rotatable hooks.